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Who, When and Why?

Learn about talking about plans using the days of the week and words for today, tomorrow, etc.

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Dialogue - Japanese

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Kanji English Rōmaji Hiragana All

A: （病院で昏睡状態になっていた人がおる。）起きた！

B: ここはどこですか。

A: ここは東京病院ですよ。

B: あなたは誰ですか。

A: 鈴木です。看護婦です。

B: いつから私はここにいるんですか。

A: 去年からですよ。

B: 何でここにいるんですか。

A: それは。。。

Vocabulary

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English Kana Rōmaji

- 病院 [びょういん] hospital
- 昏睡状態 [こんすいじょうたい] comatose state
- どこ [どこ] where — 1 EXAMPLE
  - マリアさんの出身はどこですか。
  - Where is Maria from(originally)?
- 誰 [だれ] who
- 看護婦 [かんごふ] (Female) nurse
- から [から] from — 1 EXAMPLE
  - 新宿から渋谷までどのくらいですか。
  - How far is it from Shinjuku to Shibuya?
- いる [いる] to exist
- 去年 [きょねん] last year — 1 EXAMPLE
  - 去年、郊外に移った。
  - I moved to the suburbs last year.
- なんで [なんで] why — 1 EXAMPLE
  - なんでやにやや笑っているの？
  - Why are you smirking?

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Lesson Notes

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Lesson Focus

Today we introduce three question words: *dare*, *itsu* and *nande*, which mean "who," "when" and "why" respectively in English. *Nande* is more casual than *naze*, which also means "why" in English.

誰	いつ	何でなぜ
dare	*itsu*	*nande/naze*
who	when	why

Examples:

彼は誰ですか。	彼女は誰ですか。	あなたは誰ですか。
Kare wa dare desu ka?	*Kanojo wa dare desu ka?*	*Anata wa dare desu ka?*
Who is he?	Who is she?	Who are you?

Note: *Anata wa dare desu ka?* is very direct, and thus considered somewhat rude depending on the situation or intonation. It can be used in a situation like today's dialog, but it is advisable to avoid using it unless needed. It's better to use *donata* (which is a polite, indirect substitution for *dare*) and drop *anata*; i.e. *Donata desu ka?*

いつから日本にいるんですか？
Itsu kara Nihon ni iru n desu ka?
How long (from when) have you been in Japan?

いつここに来たんですか？
Itsu koko ni kita n desu ka?
When did you come?

何で笑ったんですか？
Nande waratta n desu ka?
Why did you laugh?

何で日本が好きなんですか？
Nande Nihon ga suki nan desu ka?
Why do you like Japan?

Note: Ending with んですか? (*n desu ka?*) is more natural when you ask for an explanation or reason, than 何で笑いましたか？(*Nan de waraimashita ka?*), or 何で日本が好きですか？(*Nan de Nihon ga suki desu ka?*)

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Grammar

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Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

のだ no da the reason is	Introduced
よ yo you know	Introduced
いる (1) iru (1) to exist (for animate, usually living, things)	Introduced
どこ doko where?	Used
誰 dare who	Used
です desu to be (copula)	Used
か (1) ka (1) question particle	Used

Kanji

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KANJI	READING	MEANING	1ST CHARACTER	2ND CHARACTER	3RD CHARACTER
病院	びょう・いん	Hospital	病 - Illness	院 - Institution	
昏睡	こん・すい	Coma	昏 - Dark	睡 - Sleep	
状態	じょう・たい	Condition	状 - Shape	態 - Appearance	
看護婦	かん・ご・ふ	(Female) nurse	看 - Watch over	護 - Protect	婦 - Lady
去年	きょ・ねん	Last year	去 - Gone	年 - Year	

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